1973 (FERA) and in accordance with our policy.

[English]

Duty on Foreign Exchange released under Foreign Travel Scheme

4227. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to 15 per cent duty on foreign exchange released under the Foreign Travel Scheme, the value of foreign currency in rupees is enhanced and most of the Non-Resident Indians and tourists sell it for a premium; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Govenment in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No Sir. Since unauthorised sale of foreign exchange attracts punishment under the laws, any Non-resident Indians or tourists would attract punishment if they indulge in sale of foreign exchange.

(b) Since adequate provisions exist under the laws for booking offenders who sell foreign exchange unauthorisedly for a premium, no changes in the existing laws are considered necessary.

Credit Curbs on textile Industry by Reserve Bank of India

4228. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has imposed credit curbs on textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their effect on the cost of textile products;

(c) whether the Government propose to exempt the textile industry from credit curbs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) As part of a series of measures to curtail aggregate demand in the economy, banks were advised in May, 1991 that effective drawing power for the period May 9—September 30, 1991 would be limited to either 100% of the peak level of actual utilisation during the period, May 9 upto September 30 during the past three years or the cash credit limits as they stood on May 8, 1991, whichever is lower. Any drawings in excess of this stipulation will be irregular and banks are justified in charging higher rates of interest on such excess borrowings.

As the interest cost is only one component of the total cost, the credit restraint measure by itself would not have any significant impact on the overall cost of production of Textile products. There is, therefore, no proposal to exempt textile industry from the credit curbs.

Company Law Board

4229. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute an independent Company Law Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the status of the new Company Law Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE & COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Company Law Board has been constituted by the Central Government with effect from 31-5-1991.

(b) An independent Company Law Board was constituted on the recommendations of High-power Committee (Sachar Committee) to provide an in-built system to combine application of judicial mind with speed and administrative efficiency.

(c) The Board is an independent authority to exercise judicial and quasi-judicial functions conferred on it by the Companies Act, 1956 and its orders are appealable to High Court on questions of law.

Seizure of gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

4230. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold worth Rs. 40 lakh was found on a plane and seized by customs authorities recently at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi as reported in the "Times of India" dated June 28, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the seizure made; and

(c) further action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) On 26-6-1991, the Customs Officers of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi rummaged an aircraft of Air India which had arrived from Tokyo via Bangkok and recovered and seized contraband gold of foreign origin weighing 10·850 kgs. worth Rs. 41·12 lakhs approximately. The seized gold was concealed in a wall panel of the aircraft. A show cause notice has since been issued.

[Translation]

Loans given by Banks in Uttar Pradesh

4231. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued directives to the nationalised banks to sanction loans to the rural artisans, agricultural workers and small farmers:

(b) if so, the amount of loans sanctioned to them in Uttar Pradesh during the current year, district-wise;

(c) the percentage of loan sanctioned this year vis-a-vis the loan sanctioned during the last three years;

(d) whether the nationalised banks have achieved the target fixed for sanctioning such loans;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this ragard?